

Prayer & Study Groups:

Bible Study 2 - James 1:12-18

James now begins to teach believers that they should not blame God for the temptations with which they struggle. On the contrary, God is good, faithful and does not change. He also delights to give good gifts to his children. The sins we commit result from our own hearts being enticed and lured away by evil desires.

- What is the reward that James promises will come to those who steadfastly endure trials (v.12)? Can you think of other passages of Scripture that point to similar rewards?
- What is the difference between trials and temptations?
- The two concepts of trials and temptations are tightly related, because trials in our lives will often lead us into temptation. Name some specific sins that people can be tempted to fall into as a result of trials they are facing.
- What do these verses teach us about God and temptation?
- The Bible teaches that God often, in his providence, ordains that his people should face trials. What passages of Scripture teach this truth? What stories in the Bible illustrate it?
- If God sometimes ordains that his people will face trials, what then is James saying in verse 13 that God does not do?
- What does James say is the end result after sin 'is fully grown' (v.15)?
- Why does James turn in verses 16-18 to talk about God's goodness and faithfulness? What are his readers in danger of deceiving themselves about, with particular reference to their trials and the temptations that come with them?
- What do we learn about God from v.17?
- What does the phrase 'of his own will' (v.18) tell us about our salvation?
- What is the 'word of truth?' (v.18) and why is it so important? Paul also uses this phrase in Ephesians 1:13. What further insights does this verse give us?